

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT ON ATTORNEYS' FEES IN CLASS ACTION CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF FOOD STAMP APPLICATIONS

Have you applied for or tried to apply for or renew eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps, in Nebraska at any time since January 1, 2012? If so, this notice gives you information about the settlement of attorneys' fees in a lawsuit regarding the processing of applications.

Proposed Settlement on Fees and Costs

In 2014, a class action lawsuit, entitled *Leiting-Hall, et. al v. Phillips, et al.*, 4:14-cv-03155, was brought alleging that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") fails, in some cases, to timely provide SNAP benefits to households who file a new application or seek to renew their SNAP benefits. The class representatives and DHHS have reached agreement to settle the class claims.

Under federal law, Plaintiffs' attorneys are allowed to recover reasonable fees, costs, and expenses they have incurred in this lawsuit. Plaintiffs' attorneys and DHHS have agreed that Plaintiffs' attorneys are entitled to recover a lump sum of \$230,000 for fees, costs, and expenses incurred up to the date the settlement agreement on class claims is so ordered.

Right to Object

Any class member has the right to let the Court, the attorneys, and the parties know if he or she objects to the proposed fees and costs settlement. The Court has set a hearing on April 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the following address:

U.S. District Court Courtroom 1
Robert V. Denney Federal Building 100
Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3803.

You may also object to the settlement by writing a letter by March 25, 2016 to the Court at this address: Chambers of U.S. District Judge John M. Gerrard, Robert V. Denney Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 586, Lincoln, NE 68508-3803. If you write a letter to the Court about the settlement, the letter will be filed electronically by the clerk and therefore will be available for public review. You may also call the following attorneys, who have represented the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, if you have any questions:

Molly M. McCleery, James A. Goddard
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
Tel. (402) 438-8853

Marc Cohan, Gina Mannix
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
Tel. (212) 633-6967